



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Homeland Defense Update

## More than 7,200 National Guard soldiers and airmen available in Wisconsin

Even after two recent mobilizations of Wisconsin National Guard personnel, the number of Guard soldiers and airmen available in the state remains at more than 7,200 personnel who are readily accessible in the event of state emergencies or to support homeland defense or security missions.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, about 70 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty either at home or overseas. Most of these 6,600-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required.

Of the Wisconsin National Guard's 9,450 current members, there are about 2,220 serving on active duty for federal missions. Of those, about 2,020 are currently deployed overseas, another 80 will eventually deploy overseas following post-mobilization training. The Guard's remaining soldiers and airmen are available in Wisconsin and are fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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